

2012 Arctic Ecosystem Integrated Survey

Daily Update for: September 17, 2012

This form provides daily updates for two survey vessels conducting fisheries surveys in waters off Alaska during August and September 2012: *The F/V Alaska Knight* is conducting a bottom trawl survey in the Chukchi Sea and the F/V Bristol Explorer is conducting a surface trawl / acoustic survey, as well as plankton and oceanographic surveys, in the Chukchi Sea and northern Bering Sea. The attached maps show planned sampling locations, stations completed to date, and stations planned for today. The survey schedules for the vessels are:

Bottom Trawl Survey (F/V Alaska Knight):

Aug 9	Depart Dutch Harbor	Aug 31/Sep1	Nome, crew change
Aug 12/13	Nome, pick up scientists	Sep 2-18	Southern Chukchi Sea
Aug 14-30	Northern Chukchi Sea	Sep 24	Return to Dutch Harbor

Surface Trawl Survey (F/V Bristol Explorer):

Aug 3	Depart Dutch Harbor	Sep 11/12	Nome, crew change
Aug 6-23	Southern Chukchi Sea	Sep 13-25	Northern Bering Sea
Aug 24/25	Nome, crew change	Sep 28	Return to Dutch Harbor, offload
Aug 26-Sep10	Northern Chukchi Sea		

Notes from the field:

Arctic Eis updates: F/V Bristol Explorer: Winds increased through the night to 40-45 knots by morning. We were unable to perform acoustic surveying, oceanography, or trawling until late afternoon. We completed one surface trawl and 30+ nm of the acoustic transect. The water temperature was 8.5 C. Tomorrow we will remain in Norton Sound to complete the stations in the area. Summary of yesterday's catches: j. chum – 1; j. chinook – 4; saffron cod – 11; herring (age) – 996; herring – 107; Arctic cod (age0) – 1; 9-spine stickleback – 640; jellyfish (combined) – 2kg. Very few birds observed today with the exception of black-legged kittiwakes. Marine mammals: None observed.

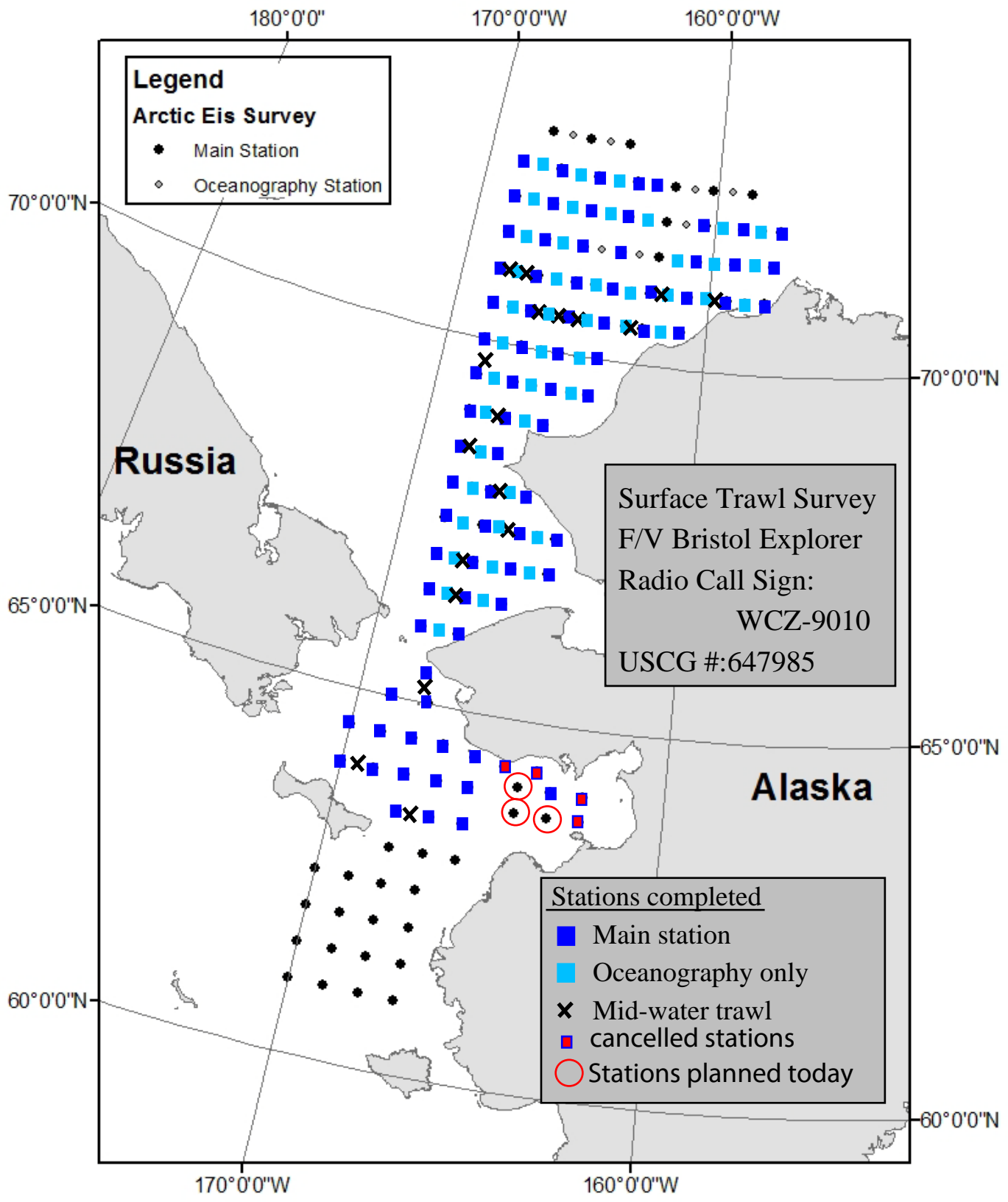
F/V Alaska Knight: We successfully sampled CH30-I01 today using both nets. We have now officially sampled all of the stations we can with the 83-112 bottom trawl. Seventy-one of the seventy-three allocated stations were sampled successfully. The only exceptions were CH30-O01, which was heavily covered in ice and CH30-N06 which had the bottom consistency of quicksand. We also completed a tow today at CH30-G01 that has provided some very valuable specimens of Liparid snailfishes (Liparidae) and Bering flounder (*Hippoglossoides robustus*). Our tow at CH30-I01 was a nice autumn harvest of sea peaches (*Halocynthia aurantium*), sea onions (*Boltenia ovifera*), and sea potatoes (*Styela rustica*). Since we still have a little time left before we need to break for Dutch Harbor to offload at the end of the survey, we are hoping to complete some beam trawl samples at stations that were not sampled with the beam trawl during the first leg. However, the weather is coming up significantly, so we are unsure if we will be able to sample these stations in this storm. Our planned stations for Sept 17 with the beam trawl are CH30-D02, CH30-C02, and CH30-B02.

F/V Other Surveys: No other updates

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For general information or comments about the survey, please e-mail fmuetter@alaska.edu

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